

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/782,414

Applicant(s)

FEINSMITH, JASON B.

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/23/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 39-75 (renumbered to 1-37).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/6/2006</u> |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/18/04 & 12/5/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other. Drawings filed 2/18/04 are accepted.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to Applicant's Response to Election/Restriction filed October 23, 2006 for electing Group II, claims 39-75 to be examined.
2. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of Examiner's amendments made December 6, 2006 which canceled claims 1-38 and 76-88 and amended claims 39-48, 50-51, 56-70 and 72, Claims 39-75 (renumbered to 1 to 38) are allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statements filed February 18, 2004 and December 6, 2005 are in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and therein have been considered. Corresponding PTO-1449s have been electronically signed as attached.

Drawings

4. The drawings, filed February 18, 2004, are considered in compliance with 37 CFR 1.81 and accepted.

Examiner's Amendments

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gideon Gimlan (Registration: 31,955) on December 6, 2006. The interview summary is attached.

5.1. Please amend claims 1-48, 50-51, 56-70, 72 and 76-88 as follows:

Claims 1-38: (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): An expression storing and transmitting system that can be used ~~usable~~ by a first user and enables ~~such that the first user can~~ to develop and/or refine expressions of ideas for one or more activities ~~and/or can~~ and to share selectable ones of the expressed activity ideas with one or more other users, wherein the expression storing and transmitting system comprises:

(a) activity description recording means for recording in an activity descriptions holding area of the first user, a first set of ~~first~~ one or more first activity descriptions wherein each said recorded first activity description comprises an activity data object (ADO) and wherein each given ADO comprises:

(a.1) at least one of a short activity descriptor field and long activity descriptor field for respectively providing a relatively short description and a comparatively longer ~~and/or~~ or more detailed description of a corresponding activity of the given ADO; and

(a.2) an ADO owner identifying field for identifying an owner-user who has ownership and modification rights over the said ADO for creating ~~and/or~~ or modifying at least said short description ~~and/or~~ or comparatively longer ~~and/or~~ or more detailed description of the corresponding activity of the given ADO; and

(a.3) a uniqueness providing field for use alone or in combination with said ADO owner identifying field for providing the given ADO with a unique identification so as to make the given ADO uniquely identifiable respectively among other ADO's owned by said owner-user of the given ADO and among other ADO's owned by a specifiable pool of other users with whom the owner-user of the given ADO is sharing or may be sharing activity idea information;

means for selecting activity description expressions for sharing with one or more other users;

means for deriving a transmittable bundle of one or more selected activity description expressions for transmitting as derived copies to one or more other users;
and

(b) first sharing means for transmitting the derived copies of selected activity description expressions stored in the said activity descriptions holding area of the first user to alike systems or unlike systems usable by one or more other users so that the one or more other users can at least review the activity description expressions developed by the first user and transmitted via said first sharing means.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further wherein:

(a.4) the said activity description recording means includes means for recording in one or more activity descriptions holding areas, corresponding ones of activity descriptions.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further comprising:

(b- c) journaling means for recording in one or more journal data items holding areas, corresponding ones of journal data items.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further comprising:

(c) second sharing means for receiving and recording a second set of ~~second~~ one or more corresponding and second activity description expressions from said alike systems, where the second set may include alike ADO structures associated with, and owned by the second users of the alike ~~said~~ systems, wherein portions or wholes of said second set of activity descriptions can be recorded into the said activity descriptions holding area of the first user as updates to or as new members of the respective first set of one or more activity descriptions of the first user; and

(d) expressing means for presenting to the first user in an integrated presentation, expressions of the first set of one or more of the recorded activity descriptions and expressions of the received and recorded second set of one or more activity descriptions.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further ~~including~~ each given ADO comprises :

(e- a.4) a common-idea-tying field for identifying each the given ADO as being a member of a corresponding and exclusive first group of further ADOs that can be logically tied together under an exclusive, common-idea-tying field such that said first group of common-idea-tied ADOs is unique among at least all other common-idea-tied groups of ADOs that are recorded in the activity descriptions holding area of the first user and in the activity description holding areas of other users in a specifiable sharing pool, and such that no ADO member of said exclusive, first group of common-idea-tied ADOs is also a member of another alike and exclusive group of common-idea-tied ADOs recorded in the said activity descriptions holding area of the first user and the holding areas of other users in a specifiable sharing pool.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 43 and further comprising:

(a- c) second sharing means for receiving and recording a second set of second one or more activity description expressions where the second set may include alike ADO structures associated with, and owned by second users of alike said systems; and

(f- d) expressing and preview means for presenting to the first user a presentation including one or more of said second activity descriptions that may not yet have been reviewed by said first user, for which the ADOs corresponding to said presented second activity descriptions comprise said common-idea-tying fields that do not match such

fields corresponding to any other ADOs that are already recorded in the activity descriptions holding area of the first user.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 43 and further comprising:

(g ~~c~~) integrating means for allowing the first user to integrate into his own recorded collections of said recorded first activity descriptions, new, third respective, derived copies of second activity descriptions received from outside his collections; in a manner such that:

(~~g~~ c.1) the common-idea-tying fields of respective second activity descriptions do not match the common-idea-tying fields of any first activity descriptions before respective said integration;

(~~g~~.1 c.2) said integrated third derived copies are owned by the first user; and

(~~g~~.2 c.3) the common-idea-tying fields of respective said third derived copies indicate the same values as the common-idea-tying fields of the respective second activity descriptions.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 43 and further comprising:

(~~h~~ c) second sharing means for receiving a second set of second one or more activity description expressions where the second set may include alike ADO structures associated with, and owned by second users of alike said systems;

and further wherein:

(a.5_4) the ~~storage~~ activity description recording means includes means of automatically updating said activity descriptions in the activity descriptions holding area of the first user, wherein if both the common-idea-tying field and the owner-user indicated by a said first activity description respectively match the common-idea-tying field and the owner-user indicated by a said received second activity description, then one or more portions of the received second activity description are used by said means of automatically updating to update the values of the corresponding one or more portions of the matching first activity description in the activity descriptions holding area of the first user.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 46 and further wherein:

(a.5a_4a) the automatic updating means includes sharing progress tracking means wherein the said portions of updated activity descriptions owned by other than the said first user, include one or more of a sharing ~~and/or~~ or delegating agreement indicator, an activity completion status indicator, a priority indicator ~~and/or~~ or other activity description indicators; and

(a.5b) said sharing progress tracking means includes expressing means for presenting to the first user expressions of these indicators.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 43 and further wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing ~~transmitting~~ means includes means of automatically transmitting derived copies of said one or more first activity descriptions that are owned by said first user, to machine areas of other users who are respectively indicated as originators of respective activity idea expressions corresponding to the respectively said common-idea-tying fields of the one or more first user owned first activity descriptions.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 43 and further wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing ~~transmitting~~ means includes means of automatically transmitting derived copies of said one or more first activity descriptions that are owned by said first user, to machine areas of other users who are respectively indicated as the owners of respective other one or more of the said first activity descriptions; and wherein:

(a.5) the common-idea-tying fields of the transmitted copies that ~~corresponding~~ to the respective said owned activity descriptions match the common-idea-tying fields corresponding to the said respective other one or more activity descriptions.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing transmitting means includes means of automatically transmitting derived copies of said one or more first activity descriptions that are owned by said first user, to machine areas of other users who are indicated as supervisory users relative to said first user and wherein:

(b.1a) said automatic transmitting means is initiated directly ~~and/or~~ or indirectly when said one or more first activity descriptions are created by said first user or if said one or more first activity descriptions are modified by said first user.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 ~~and further including:~~ each given ADO further comprises:

(a.4 ~~e~~-) an inbound sharing request type indicating field for identifying each given respective activity description as corresponding to a respective inbound sharing request type, which may be null;

and further wherein the system includes:

(~~d~~ c) expressing means for presenting to the user, expressions of the first one or more recorded activity descriptions, wherein said expressing means includes means to automatically and selectively filter from the presentation, first activity descriptions corresponding to a specified one or more inbound sharing request types.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 ~~and further including:~~ each given ADO further comprises:

(a.4 e-) a sharing request type indicating field for identifying each given activity description as corresponding to a respective sharing request type, wherein the said indication of sharing request type is selected from a group of sharing request types including: a "For Your Information" type (FYI) or equivalent type, wherein the "For Your Information" sharing type does not correspond to a request for receiving users to actively participate in regard to the activity description.

Claim 59 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further wherein said first sharing means ~~for transmitting~~ includes:

(b.1) means for transmitting translated ADO copies in one or more formats from the group consisting of :

- (a) message body ASCII text;
- (b) message body rich text;
- (c) message body HTML;
- (d) a message ~~and/or~~ or email encoded binary attachment; or
- (e) data encrypted ~~and/or~~ or compressed into message body ASCII text.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further wherein:

(a.4) the first sharing ~~transmitting~~ means includes means of automatically transmitting derived copies of said one or more first activity descriptions that are owned by said first user to machine areas of other users to whom the first user has indicated the activity descriptions should be shared to; and wherein:

(a.5 4) said automatic transmitting means is initiated directly ~~and/or~~ or indirectly when said one or more first activity descriptions are created by said first user or if said one or more first activity descriptions are modified by said first user.

Claim 61 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 wherein ~~these of~~ said activity descriptions that are owned by a given user are hierarchically organized at least as parent nodes and corresponding child nodes of a primary hierarchical tree, wherein each said activity description has as its parent in the primary hierarchical tree, only one primary parent node, unless said activity description defines a root node, and each said activity description has as its children, zero or more primary child nodes.

Claim 62 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 61 wherein each ADO further comprises one or more of:

(a.4 ~~b.2e~~) a primary parent identifying field for identifying the one primary parent ADO of the given ADO unless the given ADO defines a root node of its corresponding, primary hierarchical tree;

(a.5 ~~b.2d~~) one or more primary children identifying fields for identifying, alone or in combination, the one or more primary child ADO's, if any, of the given ADO.

Claim 63 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 61 wherein said activity descriptions that are primary child nodes can also have one or more secondary parent nodes that are not the same as their primary parent nodes, and wherein any activity description can have zero, one or more secondary child nodes for which such secondary child nodes can be different from their corresponding primary child nodes.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 61 wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing transmitting means includes means for automatically transmitting a derived copy of a to-be-shared one of said first activity descriptions, that is owned by said first user, to machine areas of one or more predefined reporting-to users, if any.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 61 wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing transmitting means includes means for automatically transmitting a derived copy of a to-be-shared one of said first activity descriptions, that is owned by said first user, to machine areas of reporting-to users, if any, wherein:

(b.1a) a reporting-to user can be described as an owner of any activity description of said first activity descriptions and wherein the any activity description corresponds to a same common-idea-tied group of activity descriptions to which the given activity description is tied.

(b.1b 2) said automatic transmission is transmitted to reporting-to users of the to-be-shared activity description's primary parent activity descriptions ~~and/or~~ or further progenitor activity descriptions.

Claim 66 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 61 further wherein those of said activity descriptions that are owned by a given user ~~may optionally be~~ are hierarchically organized as child nodes to foyered nodes, wherein said foyered nodes ~~can be~~ are described as nodes of recorded activity descriptions that are not owned by the said first user yet are recorded in the said activity descriptions holding area of the first user.

Claim 67 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 66 wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing transmitting means includes means of automatically transmitting a derived copy of a to-be-shared one of said first activity descriptions, that is owned by said first user, to machine areas of foyered parent reporting-to users, if any, wherein:

(b.1a) a foyered parent reporting-to user can be described as an originator of the activity idea expression corresponding to a foyered parent node of the to-be-shared activity description.

Claim 68 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 66 wherein:

(b.1) the first sharing transmitting means includes means of automatically transmitting a derived copy of a to-be-shared one of said first activity descriptions, that is owned by said first user, to machine areas of foyered parent reporting-to users, if any, wherein:

(b.1a) a foyered parent reporting-to user can be described as an owner of a foyered parent activity description of the to-be-shared activity description.

Claim 69 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 39 and further comprising: ~~which further comprises:~~

(c-j) journal data recording means for recording in a journal items holding area of the first user, ~~first~~ one or more journal items wherein each said recorded journal item comprises a journal data item that is recorded in a format other than that of the activity data object format;

(d k) first expression linking means for generating first logical links between selectable ones of the recorded activity data objects and at least a corresponding one of the recorded journal data items, ~~and~~

Claim 70 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 69 and further comprising: ~~which further comprises:~~

(e -4) transmitting means for generating and ~~further wherein~~ transmitting of derived copies of one or more of the recorded activity data objects ~~includes~~ including transmitting of derived copies of the at least one respectively logically linked journal data item.

Claim 72 (Currently Amended): The expression storing and transmitting system of Claim 71 wherein:

(c.1) said expressing means includes means for presenting to the first user even when the said expression storing and transmitting system is decoupled from any telecommunications networks.

Claims 76-88: (Canceled).

Reasons For Allowance

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

During a telephone interview conducted December 6, 2006, the subject matter described in the sole independent claim 39 was reviewed and examined thoroughly. A search of prior art on EAST database and on domains such as Google, IEEE and ACM has been conducted on the following combined subject matter as described in the amended claim 39.

A specifically designed data structure ADO, activity data object, comprising:
short activity descriptor fields providing a relatively short description of activities;
long activity descriptor fields providing a comparatively longer of activities;
an ADO owner identifying field for identifying owner-user with modification rights
over ADO for creating or modifying the short description or long description fields of
corresponding activity of the ADO; and
a uniqueness field for use alone or in combination with ADO owner identifying
field for providing the ADO with a unique identification so as to make the given
ADO uniquely identifiable respectively among other ADO's owned by owner-user
of the given ADO and among other ADO's owned by a specifiable pool of other
users with whom the owner-user of the given ADO is sharing or may be sharing
activity idea information;

Means provided for selecting activity description expressions for sharing with
one or more other users and deriving a transmittable bundle of one or more
selected activity description expressions for transmitting as derived copies to
one or more other users; and

Sharing means provided for transmitting the derived copies of selected
activity description expressions stored in the activity descriptions holding area
of the first user to alike systems or unlike systems usable by one or more other
users so that the one or more other users can at least review the activity
description expressions developed by the first user and transmitted via the first
sharing means.

Based on an investigation of the search result from prior art on the database and domains, Examiner is persuaded that the above described subject matter is distinct from prior art searched and prior art does not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the subject matter reflected in great detail by the combined elements in the independent claim 39.

The dependent claims 40-75, depending directly or indirectly upon claim 39 are also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Art Unit: 2167


Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 703-305-3900 (toll free).

Kuen S. Lu,



Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2167

December 7, 2006



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